

# 105th Military Police BN

## BN CDR's MESSAGE—LTC T. Paul Houser

With the arrival of the first day of 2005, we can now honestly say that we will be home this year! We have been here almost three months now and the OPTEMPO just continues to rise. Our detainee population has almost doubled and a good portion of our units are either on their way out or are new one on their way in.

With the increases in our detainee population, the mission continues to be a challenging one. We must continue to remain vigilant and be flexible when inevitable changes begin to occur. The mission of detainee operations is evolving even as I write this, doctrine is being written based on what we here at Camp Bucca are

accomplishing every day.

We must also continue to remember that the spotlight will always be upon us. Because of the media swirl surrounding Abu Ghraib, the world will continue to have its eyes on all detention facilities in the military. Any action we take, whether on or off duty, will be scrutinized by the military, the media, and the American people.

Safety continues to be an issue. All leaders, from a brand new E5 to the highest ranking officer, need to be enforcing standards. Any loss or injury of a soldier due to safety is a leadership failure. We must be vigilant in our

day to day operations and always ready to make on the spot corrections. A soldier's life could depend on it.

Camp Bucca will continue to expand, both at the TIF and the LSA. Be ready for changes and be flexible. As a team we can continue to make the mission of Camp Bucca a success.



## 105th Military Police BN

### BN CSM's MESSAGE — CSM Lonnie Webster

New Years is upon us and it is a natural time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the upcoming one. This is a great time to closely examine the goals each of us set for ourselves at the beginning of the deployment and make sure we are tracking.

Each of us should have two or three personal goals, both physical and mental.



In addition to having personal goals, we should

also strive to live the Army Values. This is the second installment of a series of articles on Army Values; today's focus will be on Duty.

There are several ways to define duty. Simply put, **Duty** is the responsibility to fulfill your obligations. You are obligated to accept responsibility for your own actions and those entrusted to your care.

Duty is the legal or moral obligation to do what should be done without being told. One of the

marks of a good soldier or unit is the unwavering execution of duties even when no one is watching.

Thanks for all you do to make Camp Bucca a success!



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**Happy New Year!**



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### A NEW YEAR CHALLENGE

We all face this New Year with a degree of uncertainty and anxiety. A New Year ushers in many new challenges. This also constitutes a Year affording personal development and new accomplishments.

We all can look back upon the past Year and recall mistakes and failures. Hopefully we learned valuable lessons and the mistakes of the past will work to our advantage in setting us up for success this New Year!

My "Chaplain's Challenge" for the New Year would include:

† Focus more on giving than receiving. It has been said that we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. We literally are giving a year of

service to our country for the sake of protecting our freedom and way of life.

† Accept difficulties and disappointments as developers of character and growth. When we long for life without difficulties, we need to be reminded that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure!

† Face the challenges of the New Year with wisdom. Science has been called organized knowledge but wisdom is organized life.

† Learn, live, and hope. Learn from yesterday; live for today; hope for tomorrow. The answer for the fulfillment of this formula is relatively simple. It is discovered by a trust in the one who controls our destiny.



God bless and happy New Year!

Chaplain (Maj) Chuck Peters

105<sup>th</sup> MP BN

Camp Bucca Iraq

## The Interpreter Platoon by CPT Diana Stumpf, 105th MP BN

Like any platoon in the Army, they come from all walks of life, all backgrounds and a variety of religious preferences. Each one has his or her personal reasons for being a part of the U.S. Army, and all have left loved ones behind. Yes, these 31 personnel could be compared to any Army platoon yet, they are not soldiers. These are the 30 men and one woman of Camp Bucca's very own "Interpreter Platoon"!

You don't have to be an MP to have had a chance to work with, or at the very least been badly beaten at Ping Pong by, one of our intrepid interpreters. They are an integral part of our mission here at Camp Bucca. Many of our duties would be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish without the skills of our interpreters. They assist our MPs at visitation, screen thousands of pieces of detainee mail, provide vital translations for our medical staff, and fill out hundreds of personnel data sheets at every mission of detainee in-processing. Of course, those are just a few examples.



**Interpreters are critical to visitation.**

Our team of 31 includes 10 "combat veterans" that have been with U.S. forces since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March of 2003. These men include Mohamed, Mustafa, Amir, Sheriff, Saado, Manny, Hamdan, Zia, Mike and Salar. Six were with the 82nd Airborne, one with the Marines, and the remainder served

with assorted combat elements. Almost all of them have made at least one of our infamous convoys to Baghdad; several, such as the "Super Twins" have traveled that route on numerous occasions.

Of course, one cannot discuss the interpreter platoon without mentioning their fearless leader, SPC James Smith of the 105th MP BN. He has played a critical part in ensuring the success of the interpreter mission, to include handling the wide variety of administrative and logistical needs of a group of 31 personnel. He has come to know these men and women as well as any good platoon sergeant would know his or her soldiers.

SPC Smith speaks highly of the combat contributions of his interpreters:

"They did not work in the rear. Typically there were one or two interpreters imbedded with a battalion. Each of these men has been in the midst of every type combat action one can imagine.

They worked eighteen-hour days, slept in Humvees and the mud. They ate MRE's and went weeks without showers. Their language skills saved many American and Iraqi lives. Their knowledge of local culture provided key information to commanders."

He continues, "When you have the opportu-



**"Sam" strikes a pose with MSG Cummings and MSG Forrest.**

nity, listen to their stories. Ask Mohamed how he was able to prevent his platoon from being caught in a cross-fire between Sunni and Shiite forces. Ask Sheriff how he was able to run from one Hummer to another, over and over, with his feet soaked in blood. Ask Zia how he narrowly escaped an angry mob of 600 Iraqis. Ask Amir how it feels to drive over a mine and it not explode. Ask Saado about his Humvee getting hit."

Just as all of us at Camp Bucca, the 31 members of the interpreter platoon are making the daily sacrifices necessary for mission accomplishment. They miss their friends, their families, and the comfort of home just as much as every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine. We work with them, eat with them, and enjoy the MWR facilities with them. They are our co-workers, our comrades in this war, and, in many cases, our friends.



# The Hajj by LT Clete Fugate, 105th MP BN

The Hajj is the Fifth Pillar Of Islam. It is the pilgrimage to [Mecca](#), that is compulsory to [Muslims](#) of good health and with sufficient funds to make the journey to Mecca at least once in a lifetime. The hajj is 19JAN05 thru 09FEB05. The government of [Saudi Arabia](#) issues special [visas](#) to foreigners for the purpose of the pilgrimage, which takes place during the [Islamic month](#) of Dhu Al-Hijjah. However, entrance to the city itself is forbidden to non-Muslims, as the entire city is considered a holy site to [Islam](#).

Hajj is the highest of all Muslim practices, even if less than 10% of all Muslims ever manage to perform it. In modern times about 2 million Muslims perform the hajj every year, and this number seems to be fairly close to the maximum. Saudi authorities have now put regulations on how many can come from each country, so that anyone who wants to perform the hajj has to apply, and many are turned down. The hajj is important because it lets the believer come to the place that is both the centre of the world, as well as the place where the divine revelations collected in the [Holy Koran](#) started, and continued for about 12 years. But most important, the hajj is a continuation of what according to Islam is one of the

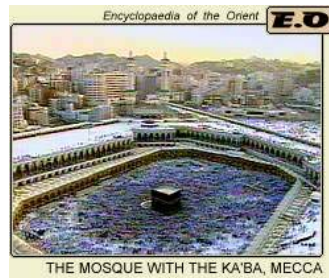
oldest true and pure religious rituals (pure in the term that is performed according to God's will).

The only ones that are not obliged to perform hajj at least once during their lifetime: Mad people, slaves, women that are without traveling company (close relative or husband), people without the necessary funds. Most [hajjiyvs](#) arrive in Mecca a few days before the hajj proper begins, while some see the opportunity of arriving in Ramadan, the month of [sawm](#), an act which is seen as especially merited.

Before the journey to Mecca, the pilgrim is required to dress only in an [ihram](#), a garment consisting of two sheets of white unhemmed cloth draped over the body; plus a pair of sandals. The [ihram](#) is intended to show the equality of all pilgrims in the eyes of Allah, as there is no difference between a prince and a pauper when everyone is dressed equally.

Upon arrival in Mecca, the pilgrim ('Hajji') performs a series of ritual acts symbolic of the life of the [prophet Muhammad](#), and of solidarity with Muslims worldwide.

These acts of faith are:



1. Perform a [tawaf](#), which consists of circling the [Kaaba](#) seven times, in a counterclockwise direction.

2. Walk seven times back and forth between the hills of [Safa](#) and [Marwa](#). This is a re-enactment of [Hagar's](#) frantic search for water, before the spring of Zamzam was revealed to her by Allah.

These rituals complete the [umrah](#), or "lesser hajj." After this point, the pilgrim can shed the [ihram](#) and put on regular clothes. Although not a part of the ritual, most pilgrims drink water from the Well of [Zamzam](#) when the [umrah](#) is completed.

Though it is not required as part of the Hajj, after the [umrah](#) pilgrims often travel to visit the city of [Medina](#) and the Mosque of the Prophet. After spending a night or more in Medina, the Hajj continues. The pilgrim dons the [ihram](#) once again and performs the final three acts of faith. This is known as the [Al Hajjul Akbar](#), or "greater hajj." The "lesser hajj" can be performed at any time of the year, but the "greater hajj" must take place during the month of Dhu Al-Hijjah. Most pilgrims perform both stages of the hajj during the time of the "greater hajj" because of the difficulty and expense of traveling to the city of Mecca. For many pilgrims (especially ones who had difficulty traveling due to health or finances), the journey to Mecca is a once in a lifetime event.

## Bucca Briefs by SPC Charles Greer, 105th MP BN

### More Things That Make You Go, HmMMMM . . . . .

#### Only in West Virginia . . . . .

Marlington, West Virginia-- A rather unusual recipe in the annual wild game cook-off contest: Squirrel Scrotum Stew. Described as kind of a chewy, nutty taste....

#### And West New York . . . . .

**New York** -- An inmate who claimed he was locked in his cell for taking an extra piece of cake in the mess hall sued. Here's the kicker - he won and was awarded \$200 in damages!

#### Cheeky Little Cuss . . . . .

Idaho-- A University of Idaho freshman suffered fractured vertebrae, abrasions and severely bruised butt when the dorm window that he was mooning a group of friends through shattered. Here's the kicker: The young man and his parents sued the school for \$470-thousand dollars per cheek.

#### Just a Moment of New Year's Reflection

Everyone enjoys getting mail, unless they are bills. During the holiday season, many cards and letters passed into our hands addressed to "Any Male/Female Soldier." It was a pleasant reminder that people at home do not take us and the job we are doing for granted. I personally read at least 30 of these cards and responded to

each one with a thank you. However, one letter from a lady in a retirement home struck me as special, so I thought I would share it with you:

To My Brave Soldier,

Thank you for all you are doing for your country. People like you always put a smile on my face because you show you care about your people. I know it is hard not being with your family on special holidays, but remember, me and your family are praying for your safety and a return back home. I know it will be hard to have a wonderful holiday but I will like it if you would just put on a smile to know you are a VERY special person in my world and you will always be my big hero. Remember, we do care for you. God bless you.

Love a lot,

Natasha M. Waters

There were others that were also special: one from a lady who had lost her older brother in Vietnam; one from a veteran who had retired from military service in 1985; another from the spouse of an 83 year old veteran of WWII. Some were from children with typical childish innocence: hope you don't have to shoot anybody; is the food good; don't get blown up; and I want to be a soldier when I grow up. At least one

contained a book mark that smelled of sweet cinnamon.

In every instance, there was an unmistakable strain of pride, appreciation, and thanks. I heard pride in being citizens of the greatest nation on earth, pride in the great level of compassion that is characteristic of Americans, and pride in the selfless sacrifice of the members of the greatest military ever known. There was a lot of appreciation for the fact

that we, by choosing to be in the military, have made it possible for them to enjoy the holidays with their own families, appreciation for the fact that we willingly stand in the long line of men and women who have sacrificed before us to ensure a way of life, and appreciation for the fact that, with few exceptions, the American military still represents the finest men and women of our great nation. There was also a tremendous sense of gratitude for doing a task that not everyone is capable of or willing to do.

As we enter the new year, let us take heart in the fact that our country is proud of us, that they appreciate our task is difficult, and that they are grateful we have chosen to do it. Truly we are a family, as diverse as a family might be, but we share in common the courage and determination to finish what we start. WE ARE VERY SPECIAL IN SOMEBODY'S WORLD!

## MWR NOTES

Coming soon!

### TAE-BO

Monday, Weds, Friday @ 1800 hrs

### Classes

### Salsa Night

Tuesday & Thursday

@ 2000 hrs

### Country Line Dancing

Monday & Friday @ 1900 hrs

### Events

### Karaoke Night

Wednesday & Sunday @ 2000 hrs

### Club Night

Saturday @ 2100 hrs

### BAZAAR (Dates are subject to Change)

3 and 16 January 2005.

### Karaoke Contest

The Karaoke Contest on 26 December 2004 had a wonderful turn out. The master minds behind the Karaoke Contest did a good job as always. Had some wonderful singers come out to sing. Kyle did a wonderful job judging and had some really unique prizes. For the winners of the Karaoke Contest CONGRADULATIONS!

1st- 1SG Rembert, 520th ASMC

2nd- SPC Thomas, aka D- Dawg ,

105th MP BN

3rd- SPC Golden, aka BIG COUNTRY,

105th MP BN



Photo By: SPC Sutton- 105th MP BN

### Camp Specials

Kodak Advantix 75% OFF

Elta Fans (220 Volts) 50% OFF

High definition, while supplies last

Gaterade

12 Bottles, 500- 600 ml

\$9.00 per case

### New Releases

Shrek 2

The Terminal

Harry Potter- Prisoner  
of Azhaban



## English-Arabic *Knowing the local language is part of Situational Awareness!*

**Greeting** salaam ali-kam

**One** wahid

**Goodbye** ma salma

**Two** ithneen

**Thank you** shukran

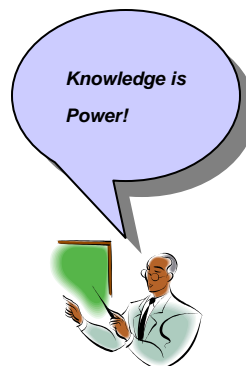
**Three** thalatha

**Please** afwan

**Four** erbaa

**US Army** jash amriki

**Five** khamisa



**Six** setta

**Seven** sebaa

**Eight** thamania

**Nine** tessa

**Ten** ashra

## Safety Corner by LT Sy Rice, 105th MP BN

### Safety is everyone's business!

1. No parking in the area across the road from the DFAC. No vehicles can be parked in the designated no parking area that has been clearly marked off. It is designated by a rope fence and no parking signs.
2. Personnel at Camp Bucca are not authorized to operate any of the ATV or gator/ranger vehicles if they have not been through the class and received a license.
3. A reminder to wear seat belts, and obey the posted camp speed limits.
4. Drivers are **required** to stop at stop signs!
5. There is a potential traffic hazard at the desert road that runs against the berm in the south east corner of the LSA which intersects with the gravel road going down to the IF. A vehicle traveling the desert road is not able to see if anyone is coming from the IF before crossing the road. New stop signs have been set up at that intersection to help with the problem. It would be wise for motorists to stop before proceeding through that intersection even if they do not have a stop sign in their lane. **STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE!**



## Christmas at Camp Bucca Images of the Holiday Season



**The cast of the first ever Camp Bucca Christmas production show their talents!**



**Are these lights authorized???**



**Scottish Santa!???**



**Soldiers enjoy the hard work of the Dining Facility staff to bring a true Christmas dinner to all of Camp Bucca.**



**Even "gym rats" like the Christmas season!**

## Computers at Camp Bucca by Jeremy Gaffney, ITT Systems

In an effort to answer a number of questions that come up frequently, we have noted some requirements of the Information System Security Monitoring Program that we follow. While it is possible to have a PC on the NIPR, we highly discourage it due the restrictions that are placed on the user and the machine when it is "baselined". All computers must be baselined before they can be placed on a government network. A few of the changes that will occur are:

1. The Administrator account and rights for the local machine will be revoked for maintenance and security purposes.
2. The Guest account and other accounts will be disabled.
3. The wireless ability of your machine will be deactivated.
4. The machine will be attached to the local domain.

Users will not be allowed on the network if they have not completed the on-line Users course at <http://ia.gordon.army.mil/>. Users who have not done the course annually will be revoked).

Army Regulation 25-2 lays out the ground rules and guidelines that we must abide by to ensure that the security, efficiency and effectiveness of the network is not compromised.

Below are a few points taken directly from AR 25-2 that will answer a lot of questions

that some of you may have. They will also help you to understand some of the responsibilities and restrictions that are placed on us as System and Network Administrators

### AR 25-2

**"Army information constitutes an asset vital to the effective performance of our national security roles. While all communication systems are vulnerable to some degree, the ready availability of low cost information technology and attack tools, increased system connectivity and asset distribution, and stand off capabilities make computer network attack an attractive option to our adversaries." [para 1-1, (e)]**

The following are strictly prohibited in accordance with AR 25-2:

1. Allowing a Foreign National on the NIPR or SIPR network.
2. Running non-licensed or pirated software.
3. Downloading and/or installing shareware or freeware software or other non-approved executable programs (e.g., .EXE, .COM, .BAT, or script files) or for non-DoD approved functions, is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, gaming software, file sharing software such as KaZaA, Morpheus, Napster, BearShare, Gnutella, AudioGalaxy, Limewire, or Winmx, and instant messaging software such as AOL Messenger and Yahoo Messenger or any of

their Components.

***"While it is possible to have a PC on the NIPR, we highly discourage it..."***

4. Any sort of IP Scanner/sniffing software.
5. Personal routers.
6. Any type of wireless networking devices.
7. Swapping of IP addresses.
8. Web hosting (i.e. IIS, FTP etc.).
9. Personal Firewalls.

If you do decide to add your personal computer to the network, rest assured we are prohibited from viewing, deleting or changing any of your files except if we see something during the normal course of our security scanning.

In addition, if you are added to the network, you must be aware that some violations of AR 25-2 are punitive in nature and fall under the statutes of the UCMJ and Federal codes.

In the event of a violation of AR 25-2 regulations, we are required to confiscate any machine on our network and verify whether it has been compromised and then wipe-out and reformat the hard drive if needed.

**Violations include the detection of the prohibited applications or viruses of any sort.** If you feel you have any questions or need further clarification please feel free to contact us at 853-1002/1009.





**THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF CAMP BUCCA, IRAQ**

Camp Bucca, Iraq

Phone: 853-1004

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105th MP BN S1

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**We welcome your  
comments, suggestions, or  
assistance! Please see us  
at Trailer 2 to become part  
of the team!**



## 105<sup>TH</sup> MP BN (I/R) Military Justice Report

**Proper order and discipline within a military organization enables Leaders to instill in soldiers values and the ability to act maturely and respectful when executing the Army's mission. Let's look at what happens when order and discipline is compromised:**

22 DEC 04

A SGT's suspended sentence was vacated and he was reduced to SPC after failing to report, at the time prescribed, to his place of duty.

22 DEC 04

PFC received an Field Grade Article 15 and was reduced to PV2, after failing to report to his unit which was his appointed place of duty.

## Legal Issues for Demobilizing Units ("The Back Page" will return next issue!)

By CPT J. McKeown, 105th MP BN SJA

### Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)

For those of you redeploying back to home station, I salute your service and your family's sacrifice. You have served with honor and distinction and you should be very proud. Camp Bucca will miss you, your unit and your dedication to duty!

Congress also salutes your service and recognizes the unique problems associated with deploying national guard and reserve soldiers away from their full-time jobs. Specifically, Congress passed and continues to revise and update federal legislation designed to protect your job while you are deployed. This federal legislation is the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), Chapter 43, Title 38 U. S. Code. Simply stated, USERRA seeks to ensure that members of the uniformed services, including the national guard and reserve, are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their military service.

USERRA provides three major protections for national guard and reserve soldiers:

1) Protection against discrimination based on military service; 2) No retaliatory action due to military service; and 3) Prompt reemployment after mobilization or other active service.

If you experience employment problems because of your military service in Iraq and/or other military obligations, you should notify your chain of command as soon as the problem is identified. Many times, your commander or First Sergeant can quickly and easily resolve disputes between you and your civilian employer. In this regard, they can utilize their

JAG assets to assist in resolving employment disputes.

Soldiers can also contact the national Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and/or your state or local ESGR representative. In fact, many states encourage soldiers to use incremental means of resolution of problems, starting with contacting local ESGR Ombudsmen who will seek informal voluntary compliance concurrently with seeking help from their chain of command. Contact information for state and local ESGR representatives can be easily found by visiting the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve website, [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com), or by calling **1-800-336-4590 (DSN 426-1390)**.

The national Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and ESGR's local and state representatives provide information, counseling and informal mediation of issues relating to compliance with USERRA. The ESGR states that "more than 95 percent of all requests for assistance are resolved" through their "informal process." For example, many problems arise as a result of poor communication and a lack of familiarization with the rights and responsibilities of employers and their employees as defined by USERRA. Therefore, simple communication will usually help resolve most problems.

If ESGR is not successful in informally resolving the dispute, they will likely refer you and your case to the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). In addition, VETS can be contacted directly by calling

**1-202-693-4701** or by visiting their website, [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets).

Finally and if all else fails, you can contact a JAG legal assistance attorney or civilian attorney to assist you in resolving the dispute. USERRA provides for a private right of action against employers who fail to follow the commands of this federal legislation. In other words, employers can be sued in civilian court for their failure to abide by the rules outlined in USERRA. However, when you involve a civilian attorney, ESGR's role in the dispute will be limited significantly.

Hopefully, your transition back to civilian employment will be an easy transition without incident. However, if there are problems with your employer, raise them early and attempt to resolve these problems as soon as possible.

*This article is NOT a formal legal opinion and only reflects general conclusions. For answers based upon specific circumstances and problems, please contact your commander or First Sergeant, your state and/or local Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representative, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the JAG officer in your chain of command and/or your own personal civilian attorney.*

